

Today's News - Thursday, February 20, 2014

- Slessor considers the "end of public space as we know it" (Davis and Sorkin saw this coming 20 years ago).
- Quirk had high hopes for Smith's answer to why women leave architecture, but "unfortunately, all that promise falls terribly flat" ("success is a fluffy pink jumper? Really?").
- The Missing 32% Project is looking for women and men (and those who have left the field) to participate in the Equity in Architecture Survey.
- Hawthorne cheers Johnston Marklee's Menil Drawing Institute: the "deceptively simple" design bucks "the prevailing trend toward art-world gigantism."
- The Menil's "revolutionary roof" will solve "two seemingly polar design objectives: protecting art that is extremely light-sensitive and creating an inviting, airy space visitors will enjoy."
- Loopholes and conflicting laws are allowing the "ongoing massacre of heritage edifices" in Alexandria, Egypt, "in favor of an ever-expanding concrete jungle of tall, unattractive buildings."
- The Twentieth Century Society has launched an "audacious listing bid" to save the 1999 über-green Millennium Sainsbury's because the supermarket giant is moving to bigger digs, and "doesn't want a rival food retailer to take over the building" (takes top prize in a Hall of Shame - if we had one).
- Hartman cheers the effort to save the Sainsbury's, but fears it is "a long shot": "surely, a 3,000-square-meter column-free space lends itself to many uses" - with some "leadership and vision."
- FOA's successor firm walks off the Birmingham New Street station atrium project (expect a "crass and timid" replacement for what was to be a "showpiece station interior").
- Betsky has high hopes for The Living's "Hy-Fi" summer installation at MoMA P.S.1: it "may be one of the most fully realized bio-buildings ever constructed."
- Q&A with EDSA's Smith digs deep into the more than 50 years of the firm's commitment to sustainable design.
- Q&A with Koolhaas: "There have been radical changes to so many things...yet we persist as if we are still old pipe-smoking gentlemen" (a great read).
- CNU's annual list of Freeways Without Futures illustrates "broader institutional and political shifts on urban infrastructural thinking."
- Bad/sad news for the publishing industry: another design magazine bites the dust.
- Call for entries: Nominations for 2014 World Monuments Fund/Knoll Modernism Prize (Happy Birthday, Louis Kahn!) + The Architecture Foundation's Capturing our Natural Capital international short film competition.

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Editorial: The end of public space? The power of the state has changed the essential idea of public space as a space for socialization, expression and democracy: Just over 20 years ago, Mike Davis and Michael Sorkin predicted the end of public space as we knew it. By Catherine Slessor - Architectural Review (UK)

"Why Do Women Really Leave Architecture" Is the Wrong Question: Maria Smith, shortlisted for The Architect's Journal's Emerging Woman Architect of the Year...promised to offer a different perspective...Unfortunately...all that promise falls terribly flat. By Vanessa Quirk [links] - ArchDaily

Equity in Architecture Survey 2014: We encourage both WOMEN and MEN who have graduated from professional Architectural programs and are currently practicing architecture to participate...We are also interested in those that have left the profession to pursue other career interests and sole practitioners who have left small/large firms. - The Missing 32% Project

Menil design by L.A.'s Johnston Marklee is deceptively simple: ...the architecture is not so much spare as it is efficiently layered with ideas and comfortable with contradiction...bucking the prevailing trend toward art-world gigantism, is expanding as thoughtfully and intelligently as any museum in the country. By Christopher Hawthorne [images] - Los Angeles Times

Menil unveils plans for long-awaited drawing institute: ...\$40 million Menil Drawing Institute...will feature a revolutionary roof of thin steel plate that solves two seemingly polar design objectives: protecting art that is extremely light-sensitive and creating an inviting, airy space visitors will enjoy. -- Johnston Marklee; David Chipperfield Architects; Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates [images] - Houston Chronicle

Faulty laws turn Egypt's architectural heritage from gold to dust: The loopholes...continue to warrant the demolition of irreplaceable landmarks, including Alexandria's Villa Aghion: Alexandria is, in fact, losing a large number of its outstanding architectural landmarks in favour of an ever-expanding concrete jungle of tall, unattractive buildings. -- Auguste Perret (1922) - Aham / Al-Aham (Egypt)

Audacious listing bid to save 1999 eco-supermarket: Millennium Sainsbury's would become UK's youngest listed building: It is under imminent threat of demolition because the supermarket giant is moving to a bigger site and doesn't want a rival food retailer to take over the building. -- Chetwoods Architects; Twentieth Century Society - BD/Building Design (UK)

Leadership and vision is needed to save Greenwich's eco-Sainsbury's: Listing is an avenue worth exploring. But it's a long shot: Demolition is mad. What is needed is creative vision and leadership to find a new use for the building...surely, a 3,000m² column-free space lends itself to many uses. By Hattie Hartman -- Chetwoods Architects - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Alejandro Zaero-Polo walks off Birmingham New Street station atrium project: Network Rail pushes through 'crass and timid' replacement for showpiece station interior by Foreign Office Architects successor firm. -- AZPML; Haskoll [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

What Makes the Best Architecture: David Benjamin's Hy-Fi installation for MoMA P.S. 1 Young Architect's Program may be one of the most fully realized bio-buildings ever constructed. As such, its form will be a proof of concept both formally and environmentally. That might not sound like all that much, but it is certainly a step in the right direction. By Aaron Betsky -- The Living [images] - Architect Magazine

Meet The Pioneers Of Sustainable Design: In an in-depth interview with Douglas Smith, President of EDSA, a landscape architecture and urban design firm, we discussed their efforts for more than 50 years to create sustainable places to live, work, learn and play. - Forbes

Batik, Biennale and the Death of the Skyscraper. Interview with Rem Koolhaas: For a man who has declared his antipathy for the tower, you're doing a lot of them. "In 'content' I declared death to the skyscraper, which was obviously a joke...There have been radical changes to so many things...yet we persist as if we are still old pipe-smoking gentlemen." By Andrew Mackenzie -- OMA; AMO [images] - Architectural Review (UK)

Ten Roads Whose Time Has Come: Congress for the New Urbanism Releases List of Freeways Ripe for Removal: ...annual list of Freeways Without Futures...CNU highlighted campaigns in Dallas, the Bronx, Pasadena, Buffalo, and Niagara Falls...illustrations of broader institutional and political shifts on urban infrastructural thinking. [images, links] - The Architect's Newspaper

California Home + Design Shuts Down After 20 Years: Bad news for the publishing industry: another design magazine has ceased operations...Editor-In-Chief Erin Feher lamented the irony that San Francisco is awash in new money, but it didn't find its way to this endeavor. By Sam Lubell- [The Architect's Newspaper](#)

Call for entries: Nominations for 2014 World Monuments Fund/Knoll Modernism Prize for an innovative architectural or design solution that has preserved or enhanced a modern landmark or group of landmarks; cash honorarium of \$10,000; round-trip airfare and hotel in New York City to attend awards dinner; deadline: June 30- [World Monuments Fund/WMF](#)

Call for entries: Capturing our Natural Capital: The Architecture Foundation's first international film competition for short films that respond to the theme of architecture and nature; cash prize + preview and showcase during the London Festival of Architecture 2014; deadline: April 14- [The Architecture Foundation \(UK\)](#)

ANN Feature: Informed by Learning: Interview with Joe Valerio and Randy Mattheis about education for the future at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools: "We wanted to dive deeply into the culture of the school...so one of the first things we did was to participate in its daily life." -- Valerio Dewalt Train Associates - [ArchNewsNow](#)



-- OMA/Rem Koolhaas: De Rotterdam, Rotterdam: ...creates a city-within-a-city...Unintentionally it also proves that what works in Manhattan may not automatically work in the Netherlands' second city. By Ulf Meyer

-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Heydar Aliyev Center, Baku, Azerbaijan: ...will play a leading role in re-sculpting the capital's image and in the wider process of carving out the nation's cultural future.

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